Assessment of Visit India Campaign

99. SHRI M. A. BABY:
SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any interim assessment has been made regarding the success of the Visit India year campaign and if so, what are the main conclusions drawn;

(b) whether any proposals are being considered to draw the attention of foreign and Indian tourists to places of historical and scenic importance in all parts of the country in view of the indifferent atmosphere existing in many conventional tourist spots; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir. Due to the Gulf War, there has been a sharp decline in the number of tourist arrivals. However, the tourist traffic is expected to pick up with the onset of the tourist season shortly.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Apart from 18 extension circuits and 46 fairs and festivals which have been identified all over the country for promotion, the Ministry is providing financial assistance to the State Governments for strengthening of tourism infrastructure at identified places. During the year 1990-91, an amount of nearly Rs. 28.90 crores was sanctioned for this purpose.

Modernisation of Thiruvanathapuram Airport

100. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the progres of projects related to the Thiruvanathapuram International Airport in the year 1991-92 in order to increase its capacity to receive all types of modern aircrafts, technologically and otherwise; and

(b) the new International Airlines with which agreements have been signed in relation to establishing their services through Thiruvanathapuram airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) At present Trivandrum Airport has a runway which is 9500 ft. long. This prevents it from receiving Boeing 747 and similar type of aircraft which require longer runway. International Airports Authority of India has identified the land required for extension of the runway to enable regular operation of all aircraft and will approach the Government of Kerala to initiate land acquisition proceedings. During the year 1991-92 work will continue on the extension of the apron and the expansion of domestic terminal which commenced prior to declaration of Trivandrum as an International Airport.

(b) An agreement has been signed on 30-4-1991 between India on one hand and Oman, United Arab Emirates (excluding Dubai), Bahrain and Qatar, whereunder the designated airlines of the above Gulf States (*i.e.* Gulf Air) has been given rights to operate a maximum of 4 frequencies per week (1000 seats in each direction) to/from Trivandrum Airport.

Development Tourism in Bihar

101. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have a proposal to develop tourism in the State of Bihar, particularly at the places of religious and historical importance in the State;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if the answer to (a) above be in the negative, what steps Government propose to take to promote tourism in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the year 1991-92, 20 tourism projects estimated at Rs. 234.00 lakhs have been prioritised for extending financial assistance to the Government of Bihar. 10 projects are connected with the development of places of religious and historical importance.

(c) Does not arise.

Shortage of Power in the Capital

102. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA:

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

SHRI SHANTI TYAGI:

Will the Minister of POWER AND NON - CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been heavy load shedding and break-down in the capital during the current summer season;

(b) if so, what were the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware that a large volume of DESU electricity is stolen through unauthorised connections with the connivance of its own staff;

(d) if so, what action Government have taken to prevent the theft of electricity in the capital; and

(e) what action Government propose to take to improve the power position in the capital and by when it would be accomplished?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) The power supply position in Delhi during the current summer season has been by and large satisfactory. The minor shortfalls of 1.5 per cent in the availability of energy and 3.7 to 10.1 per cent in the peak load during April—June, 1991 were met by suitable load management and enforcing peak period restrictions.

(c) and (d) Some cases of theft of electricity have been detected by DESU in various parts of Delhi during the raids conducted by them. Periodical surprise raids are carried out by DESU to check illegal use of electricity including theft of power which has been made a cognizable offence under the Indian Electricity Act, 1910. As a result of this, DESU has been able to reduce its Transmission and Distribution losses from 28.3 per cent in 1987-88 to about 19 per cent in 1990-91.

(e) The steps taken to improve the power supply position in Delhi include strengthening and augmentation of transmission and distribution system at various voltage levels, installation of 3x34.07 MW Waste Heat Recovery Units at the existing Gas Turbines of DESU and a 400 KV Transmision Ring around Delhi. Setting up of a 800 MW Gas based Power Station in Delhi is also envisaged in the 8th Plan subject to the availability of resources.

ONGC Projects

103. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC had sought for funding from international sources for its projects a few months ago;